

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
2nd Session

**Vote No. 81**

April 24, 1996, 6:16 p.m.  
Page S-4055 Temp. Record

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION/No Social Security Changes To Balance the Budget

**SUBJECT:** Immigration Control and Financial Responsibility Act of 1996 . . . S. 1664. Simpson-Kempthorne modified perfecting amendment No. 3672 to the Dorgan amendment No. 3667.

### ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 92-6

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. 1664, the Immigration Control and Financial Responsibility Act of 1996, will address the issue of illegal immigration: by increasing the number of Border Patrol and investigative personnel; by establishing pilot programs to improve the system used by employers to verify citizenship or work-authorized alien status; by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and document fraud; by reforming asylum, exclusion, and deportation laws and procedures; and by reducing the use of welfare by aliens.

The Dorgan amendment would add that it is the sense of the Senate that "because Section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act prohibits the use of the Social Security trust fund surplus to offset the budget deficit, any proposal for a constitutional amendment to balance the budget should contain a provision creating a firewall between the receipts and outlays of the Social Security trust funds and the rest of the Federal budget, and that the constitutional amendment should explicitly forbid using the Social Security trust funds to balance the budget."

**The Simpson-Kempthorne modified perfecting amendment** would add numerous findings and would express the sense of the Senate that "any legislation required to implement a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution shall specifically prevent social security benefits from being reduced or social security taxes from being increased to meet the balanced budget requirement."

**NOTE:** At the time of the vote, all available openings for offering amendments or motions were filled. The Simpson-Kempthorne amendment did not have precedence, but was voted on by unanimous consent.

**Those favoring** the amendment contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (92)				NAYS (6)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (50 or 96%)		Democrats (42 or 91%)		Republicans (2 or 4%)	Democrats (4 or 9%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Helms	Akaka	Inouye	Hatfield	Bradley	Smith- <sup>2AY</sup>	Heflin- <sup>2</sup>
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Baucus	Johnston	Thompson	Nunn		
Bennett	Inhofe	Biden	Kennedy		Pell		
Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerrey		Robb		
Brown	Kassebaum	Boxer	Kerry				
Burns	Kempthorne	Breaux	Kohl				
Campbell	Kyl	Bryan	Lautenberg				
Chafee	Lott	Bumpers	Leahy				
Coats	Lugar	Byrd	Levin				
Cochran	Mack	Conrad	Lieberman				
Cohen	McCain	Daschle	Mikulski				
Coverdell	McConnell	Dodd	Moseley-Braun				
Craig	Murkowski	Dorgan	Moynihan				
D'Amato	Nickles	Exon	Murray				
DeWine	Pressler	Feingold	Pryor				
Dole	Roth	Feinstein	Reid				
Domenici	Santorum	Ford	Rockefeller				
Faircloth	Shelby	Glenn	Sarbanes				
Frist	Simpson	Graham	Simon				
Gorton	Snowe	Harkin	Wellstone				
Gramm	Specter	Hollings	Wyden				
Grams	Stevens						
Grassley	Thomas						
Gregg	Thurmond						
Hatch	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

The Simpson amendment has been offered so that Senators may go on record as being opposed in any way to taking funds from the Social Security program in order to balance the budget. Social Security taxes will not be increased to get more money to balance the budget, and Social Security benefits will not be cut in order to make more money available for budgeting. This amendment is necessary because of the great myth that has been fostered by some Senators that there is a big pot of money somewhere called the Social Security Trust fund that Senators are dipping into for funds. Every time they trot out this myth, we must counter it because of the fear it causes for senior citizens. We think our colleagues are just playing political games with Social Security as an excuse to avoid voting for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. We will let them play their games, and we will vote against their amendment, but first we will vote for the Simpson amendment, to reassure America's senior citizens that money will not be taken from Social Security to help balance the budget.

**While favoring the amendment,** some Senators expressed the following reservations:

We have no objection to the content of this amendment, but Senators should not consider their support for the Simpson amendment as a substitute for the Dorgan amendment. Both amendments should be passed, but it is much more important to pass the Dorgan amendment. With that caveat, we urge the adoption of the Simpson amendment.

**No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.**